



# Department of Justice

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## **GREENWOOD BUSINESS MAN SENTENCED IN ARSON-FOR-HIRE PLOT**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Daniel Annee, 46, Greenwood, Ind., was sentenced late yesterday to three years probation by U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker following his guilty plea to solicitation to commit arson. This case was the result of an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and the joint Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department / Indianapolis Fire Department, Fire Investigations Section.

According to testimony presented in U.S. District Court, in the summer of 2010, agents of ATF received information from a confidential source ("CS") that Annee intended to burn down a commercial building he co-owned for the purpose of fraudulently collecting \$600,000 in insurance proceeds.

During the course of their investigation, ATF agents and IMPD / IFD investigators determined that Annee owed approximately \$23,000 in delinquent taxes on the building located at 431 East Hanna Avenue, Indianapolis. The ATF also learned that in July of 2010, Annee began asking one of his business partners about insurance coverage on the Hanna Avenue building and became upset when he learned that the insurance had lapsed. At Annee's direction, the business partner immediately insured the property for \$600,000.

On August 9, 2010, under the supervision of ATF and IMPD/IFD investigators, the CS met with Annee at Annee's office on Fry Road in Greenwood, Ind. During their conversation, Annee and the CS discussed setting fire to the Hanna Avenue building, the insurance policy on the building, and the need to be certain there was an insurance policy in place before there was a fire. Later in the day on August 9, 2010, Annee again contacted his business partner and asked further questions about the insurance coverage on the Hanna Avenue building. The business partner assured Annee that an insurance policy on that property had been in effect for the past three weeks.

On August 10, 2010, also under the supervision of ATF and IMPD/IFD investigators, the CS met again with Annee at Annee's office in Greenwood. Near the end of the conversation, Annee instructed the CS to see what he can do about arranging to have the Hanna Avenue building burned.

On the morning of August 12, 2010, the CS and an undercover ATF agent met with Annee at his office in Greenwood. During that meeting, Annee advised the undercover agent that he wanted the Hanna Avenue building burned down. The undercover ATF agent, posing as an arsonist, told Annee that the Hanna Avenue building could be burned down for \$5,000. The agent told Annee that if this was not good timing due to the bad economy or financial hardship, it would not be a problem to do the fire at a later date. Annee responded that if he (Annee) says he's going to do something, he's going to do it, even if it means taking food out of his own kid's mouth. The undercover agent again told Annee that there was no problem if Annee decided he did not want to go forward with the fire, but Annee responded that he wanted the building burned and he would pay to have the undercover agent come back in town if the fire wasn't going to be now. The undercover agent then asked Annee if \$5,000 was too much money, and Annee responded that "it is the best \$5,000 I'll ever spend," adding that he (Annee) couldn't get that kind of a return investing in the stock market. The undercover agent then asked Annee what he would do if questioned about the fire by law enforcement, and Annee replied that he would say that he didn't know anything. Annee then told the undercover agent that he would say the number of fires is on the increase in Indianapolis and, as far as he knows, "some punk kid did it."

Shortly after meeting with the CS and undercover agent on August 12, 2010, Annee telephoned his business partner and advised that Annee was going to show the Hanna Avenue building to a prospective tenant later in the evening of August 12, 2010. Annee asked his business partner to leave a building key under the mat at the exterior of the building entrance and to leave the building's alarm off.

In the evening of August 12, 2010, the CS and the undercover agent met with Annee at the Hanna Avenue building. During the meeting, Annee walked throughout the interior of the building with the undercover agent and the CS and suggested several areas where the fire might be set. At one point during the tour, Annee showed the undercover agent a utility room and another area where electrical wires coming through the wall and suggested making the fire look like it was caused by faulty electrical wires. Annee also got on a ladder and pointed out the location of a firewall, and discussed with the undercover agent the extent to which the firewall would impede the spread of a fire. During the conversation, Annee expressed particular concern about how the undercover agent planned to start the fire and wanted to know what kind of accelerant could be used that was not detectable by law enforcement and fire investigators. After giving the undercover agent a tour of the building, Annee told the agent that he wanted the fire set Sunday, August 15, 2010. Annee then gave the agent \$500 as an advance payment, and provided the agent with a key to the Hanna Avenue building.

Annee was arrested by ATF agents and IMPD / IFD investigators at his office on August 13, 2010.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew J. Rinka, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Barker ordered Annee to spend one weekend per month in a community corrections facility and perform eight hours of community service each month during the first year of his probation. Annee was also ordered to pay a \$10,000 fine.

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